

Resolving Conflicts Fairly*

1. What are the wrongs and injuries?	
• What are the wrongs?	
• What are the injuries?	
2. How serious are the wrongs or injuries?	
• How many people or things were affected?	
• How long did it last?	
• How bad were the wrongs or injuries?	
• How offensive is it to our sense of right and wrong?	
3. Who caused the wrongs or injuries?	
• Did the person intend to do a wrong or cause an injury or was it accidental?	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the person have the ability to know that his or her actions were wrong or might cause an injury? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the person know what would happen, but he or she decided to act anyway? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the person fail to notice or pay attention to the possible risks? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the person done similar wrongs or caused similar injuries in the past? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the person sorry for what he or she did? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the person did not act alone, what part did she or he play? 	
4. Who suffered the wrongs or injuries?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the person contribute in some way to what happened? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What ability does the person have to recover from the wrong or injury? 	

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5. What can be done? Which of the following responses might be fair and proper in this situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overlook or ignore the wrongs or injuries.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform the person he or she did wrong or caused an injury.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forgive or pardon the person for what he or she did.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the person restore or give back something.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the person pay money for the wrongs or injuries.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punish the person for what he or she did.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the person receive treatment or education.	
6. What other important things need to be considered?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the response proper considering the seriousness of the wrongs or injuries?	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the response violate any of the person's freedoms?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the response respect the person's human dignity?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the response practical?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the person did not act alone, does the response treat all the people involved equally?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the response fair compared to how other people who did similar wrongs or caused similar injuries were treated?	
7. What is a fair and proper response?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might it correct the wrongs or injuries?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might it prevent similar things from happening in the future?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How might it deter others from causing similar things to happen in the future?	

*Taken from *Foundations of Democracy: Justice*. Calabasas, CA: Center for Civic Education, 1997. Used by permission.